

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Title

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive. In response, a new title, which is more clearly indicative of the claimed invention, is presented herein for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Claims Status

Claims 28 through 32, 36 through 39, 41 through 45, 47, and 48 remain pending in the application. Claims 28 through 30, 32, 36, 37, 41, and 45 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 28 and 42 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 28 through 32, 36 through 39, 41 through 45, 47, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, the Examiner notes that the transfer bias for the toner patch image cannot be changed at the same time the density is being detected as recited in independent Claims 28 and 42 heretofore on file.

In response, Claims 28 and 42 have been amended to even more clearly recite features of the disclosed invention and to overcome the grounds of the Section 112

rejection. Specifically, Claims 28 and 42 have been amended to recite that a setting value of a transfer bias for transferring a toner patch image is changeable in correspondence with a density to be used to form the toner patch image. Support for the amendatory text can be found at least at page 16, line 5 through page 17, line 17 of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims fully satisfy the requirements of Section 112 and that the Section 112 rejection has been overcome.

Closing Comments

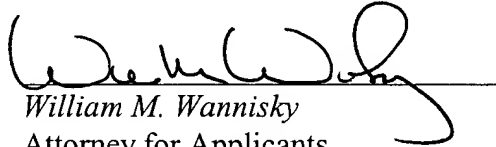
No art rejections were lodged against the claims in the Official Action.

This Amendment could not have been presented earlier in the prosecution, inasmuch as it was earnestly believed that the claims heretofore on file were in condition for allowance. No new claims have been presented. It is believed that the Examiner's familiarity with the present application will allow full consideration hereof without the expenditure of undue time and effort.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Wannisky
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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